

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 17, 2013

Agenda Item: Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

◆....

Background: A condition of administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 for stateside funding, every five years Montana must develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to guide the management of outdoor recreation resources. The Draft 2014-2018 Montana SCORP, titled *Creating a Vibrant Future for Montana's Outdoor Recreation Heritage*, was prepared in collaboration with US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Office of Tourism, University of Montana, Montana Trails, Recreation & Parks Association, and Missoula County. Through the analysis of supply, demand, and trends, the plan provides strategic recommendations to guide recreation management at the federal, state, and local levels.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Following Board approval of the proposed Draft SCORP, public comment will be solicited starting on October 18 for 30 days through November 18. A public meeting and discussion will be hosted at the FWP Regional Offices on October 23. Public feedback will be analyzed and incorporated into the SCORP as determined applicable, and a final plan will be presented to the Board at the December 2013 Board meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The SCORP is a federal mandate to be eligible for stateside LWCF grant program. The following alternatives for approval and resulting actions are:

<u>Alternative 1:</u> Not approve the proposed Draft SCORP for public review, which would put Montana's eligibility for LWCF state assistance program at risk by not meeting the December 31 deadline.

<u>Alternative 2:</u> Approve the proposed Draft SCORP for public review, solicit public comment, and meet the December 31 deadline, thus continuing Montana's eligibility for LWCF state assistance.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: State Parks staff recommends the Board authorize the Parks Division to solicit public comment on a proposed Draft SCORP for review and final consideration at the December 2013 Board meeting. This maintains Montana's eligibility to receive federal funding for community recreation grants.

Proposed Motion: I move that Montana State Parks initiate public comment for the proposed Draft 2014-2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 30 days starting from October 18 to November 18, and present the final plan at the December 2013 Board meeting.